

GERMANY'S SPY SYSTEM TRACED TO THE EMBASSY

Several Attaches Said To Be Parts of Elaborate Espionage Plan.

RUROEDE NOW CAST FOR ROLE OF VICTIM

May Plead Guilty, Thus Hiding News Which Germany Fears Would Help Allies.

Evidence that Captain Richard Boy-Ed, nominally the naval attaché to the German Embassy in Washington, is really the head of a secret service that covers the United States and Canada, has been forwarded to Washington by the United States Attorney's office and the local Secret Service staff. This evidence, it is stated on the highest authority, involves several members of the embassy staff.

It is because of this that Count von Bernstorff dashed out of Washington Wednesday night and, avoiding his usual residence here, returned to the capital as hastily as he came. It is understood in government circles that several of these diplomats might be quietly dropped out of sight as soon as the excitement over the case of Richard P. Stegler, arrested for procuring a false passport, dies down.

To protect these men from further scandal and the spy system from as thorough an airing as it might otherwise get, it is expected that Karl Ruroede, the head and front of the scheme to ship reservists by the score on false passports, will plead guilty and throw himself upon the mercy of the court when his case is called, some time next week. The case is on the docket for Monday, when it will be marked for trial.

SOFT PEDAL ON PUBLICITY

Addison S. Pratt, formerly Assistant United States Attorney, counsel for Ruroede, said yesterday that he did not know when his client would go on trial or what would be his final plea.

A plea of guilty would make it unnecessary for the government to make public data as to the German organization that the imperial government in Berlin would prefer should not reach the Allies. This would be in line with the policy of the administration in Washington, which has ordered that the soft pedal be put on the passport cases. It is the desire of Washington to avoid as much friction as possible.

For this reason the government officers in charge of the case refer all inquiries to Washington. There the only matter forthcoming is a defence of Count von Bernstorff, who, it is declared, is not involved by any of the evidence thus far obtained. Persons in a position to know something about the strength of the evidence presented declare this denial to be largely diplomatic.

Captain Boy-Ed laughed yesterday when his attention was called to a report that he had been sent to Mexico. "That is true, I may; but I have not yet received official notice to that effect," he declared. "Nothing I see in print surprises me."

He has been accused of almost everything. If another accident happens in the subway I suppose I will most likely be blamed for that. However, I am sure no one can prove that I caused the recent Italian earthquake. I caused the recent earthquake of the murder of Herman Rosenthal."

The statement that an agent of the German government, implicitly he, had paid the widow of Carl Hansa that \$15,000 in this city in full settlement of her claims amused the attaché.

"I did not know Lody, never saw him in fact, but if my recollection is correct, it was established at the time I was approached by him. However, having been divorced from the woman he married in the West," said the captain.

HIS NAME TOO RESTLESS

Bernstorff's Second Attempt to Change It Fails.

Chief Judge O'Dwyer of the City Court yesterday denied the application of Albert Bernstorff to change his name to Albert D'Aquin Bennett. Bernstorff, who is 43 years old, lives at 44 West Fifty-sixth Street. He is forty-three years old and a native of Gibraltar. He said that his work requires much outdoor speaking and that for his business Bennett would be a much simpler name.

Chief Judge O'Dwyer recalls in his decision that in 1910 the same petitioner had the court change his Christian name from Abraham to Albert. The judge, "in approving the idea that an individual may change his name as frequently as his fancy suggests. Now he seeks to abandon the balance of his name Bernstorff for Bennett, and between to provide the additional burden of a middle name, to wit, 'D'Aquin,' representing, no doubt, some ancient ancestor whose virtues he would have a change granted pursuant to statute, I shall refuse another."

DENIAL BY BERNSTORFF

Says Official Statements Are All Printed Here.

Count von Bernstorff, the German Ambassador, last night authorized a denial of a statement printed by "The London Daily Telegraph," in a dispatch from Washington, according to which he had officially informed President Wilson and Secretary Bryan that the commanders of the German submarines had received a secret order not to fire at ships flying the American flag.

"I have not given to either President Wilson or to Secretary of State Bryan any communication except such as was published in the American press," the ambassador stated.

THIEF CAN'T WASH AWAY HIS GUILT

Girls, Sleuths, Chase and Water Figure in New Tale of Hoffman.

Silver and bills spilling from every pocket, John F. McGann sped up Broadway last night from the Hoffman House. Behind him came Elizabeth Weiss, the hotel cashier, and Anna O'Neill, the telephone operator. After them trailed a line of guests.

McGann did not pause to look over his shoulder. The money that he sought to stuff into his pockets as he ran had been snatched from the cash box of the hotel.

At Twenty-eighth Street stood Detective George F. McGann with Detective Devanny and O'Brien. The McGanns are acquainted, and the fugitive was not looking for a policeman. Turning on his heel, he dashed pell-mell through his astonished pursuers and fled through the corridor of the hotel.

The detectives reached the hotel with the crowd that had taken up the chase. Eager fingers pointed the trail taken by McGann. He had taken refuge in a washroom. The door was bolted and there was no response to the volley of knocks. A passkey was found in time to prevent the smashing of the door.

McGann was combing his hair. He turned in surprise.

"I call this an intrusion," said he.

"Where's that money?" panted McGann, the detective.

"Money?" queried McGann, the fugitive. "You don't expect me to give you money."

"The money you took out of my cash box?" cried Miss Weiss.

"Really," replied McGann, squinting to make sure that he had concealed his bald spot. "I don't know what you're talking about."

To the huge surprise of those who had seen him leg it up Broadway brimming with coin, not a cent was found in McGann's pockets. A search of the hotel and other conceivable hiding places proved fruitless.

"Here it is," cried a bellhop.

He had, from force of habit, pulled the stopper from a sashen bowl. At the bottom was a sashen bowl of bills and silver. After being dried on a radiator it was counted. There was \$40.

McGann was locked up at headquarters on complaint of Daniel Ritchie, who had attempted grand larceny.

From the story told by Mr. Ritchie, McGann had laid his plans well. He had stationed himself in a telephone booth adjoining the cashier's desk. Peeking through the glass in the door, he could see when Miss Weiss counted her money preparatory to turning it over to her relief. The young woman hadn't finished, when McGann leaped silently over the counter and attempted to wrest the box from her.

He was unable to get the cash chest, so he dug both hands as deep in it as he could. Shoving the double handful into his pockets as he ran, he fled past a score or so of men and women in the lobby.

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Health Commissioner Orders Two Car Companies to Increase Service.

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Add Millions to Appropriations Made by House for Service.

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Price Drops as He Predicts Fall When Dardanelles Is Opened—He Defends Speculation and Declares Farmers Are the Best at That Game.

Washington, Feb. 26.—The shadow of war as a possible result of the complicated international situation now prevailing in Europe was projected into the debate in the Senate to-day, when the naval appropriation bill was taken up and passed, with between \$9,000,000 and \$10,000,000 added to the measure as it came from the House.

The bill passed by the House carried \$144,648,901. The Senate increased this to approximately \$153,000,000. The principal increases added by the Senate were: Additional for submarines, \$5,136,000; armor plate factory, \$1,000,000; high power radio station, \$400,000; projectile manufacturing plant, \$500,000; one gunboat, \$451,000; one hospital ship, \$500,000. There was also an increase of from \$500,000 to \$1,000,000 for aircraft.

The Senate provided for five submarines of the seagoing type, instead of one, proposed by the House, and sixteen ordinary submarines, instead of the eleven carried in the House bill.

Secretary Daniels' bill for creating a naval reserve, which went out of the House bill on a point of order, was restored by the Senate, which also included an amendment for an advisory committee on aeronautics.

The Senate approved the Naval Committee's recommendation by plucking the "plucking board" and substituting in place of it the requirement that all officers must serve half their time at sea as a requirement for promotion.

Urges More Submarines.

The debate centered on an amendment offered by Senator Smoot providing for an increase of seventy-five submarines.

"If the war lasts longer," said Senator Smoot, in support of his amendment, "the United States will control the commerce and, finances of the world. She will have nothing to defend this advanced position. I once believed that the Christian nations would never again go to war. That dream is shattered."

"There are two lessons to be learned by the war—the importance and effectiveness of the submarine and the value of the aeroplane in locating the enemy. I have always believed in a large navy. I believe now it is the best way to insure peace to the people of the United States."

Senator Lewis said the hour had arrived when the people of the country should be told where the danger is and what extraordinary expenditures would be required to meet the situation.

"I am not an alarmist," said the Senator from Illinois, "but I cannot look at a great conflagration going on all around us and see the impotence of the fire department, without realizing that my domicile may soon be seized by the same flames. The world today is in a most inflammable condition. To assume that we can escape complications, perhaps, involvement in a world war is to lay a flattering unction to our souls that will avail us not."

Must Enforce Rights.

"Shall we decline to enforce our rights because it is inconvenient to any of those now at war? think not. If any country attempts to take advantage of our unprepared state, the very possibility of our physical equipment."

There are two ways of enforcing the rights of health, the Commissioner of Health said, either by the courts or through the sanitary police.

"I would prefer to use the sanitary police," said Dr. Goldwater, "because they are under our own immediate jurisdiction. We might find it necessary to station two policemen at each of the most congested places along the coastlines."

On December 1, 1914, the Department of Health called the attention of the Public Service Commission to this menace to health. Two days later Chairman Edward E. McColl wrote to the Health Commissioner saying "the limit of human endeavor has been reached until we receive the aid that the new and additional facilities of the dual system will give."

When asked if the stand taken by the Board of Health was intended as a criticism of the Public Service Commission, Dr. Goldwater said:

"As the Public Service Commission, which is empowered to act, has utterly failed to do so and still continues its lethargy, I have decided, as has the Mayor, that the time has come to show the citizens of the city and the public service, corporations that we will not remain inactive."

"I do not expect any trouble with the companies regarding our order, as I feel that they will increase the car capacity of their lines. If they fail to obey, then I will use all the power vested in the Board of Health to see that they do."

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LINER, SAID TO BE TROOPSHIP, SAVED

Mongolian Towed by U. S. Cutter—Newfoundland Premier Wired for Aid.

Bowling & Co., of 17 Battery Place, local agents for the Red Cross Line, received yesterday morning from J. R. Bennett, acting Premier of Newfoundland, a telegram asking them to send their steamer Stephano to the assistance of the Allan liner Mongolian, reported as leaking, with two hundred passengers on board, four hundred miles out at sea.

Later in the day word was received from Washington that the United States cutter Seneca, in the North Atlantic in tow and was proceeding with her to Halifax. The Stephano, notified by wireless, was recalled.

The Mongolian sailed from Philadelphia on January 29, commanded by Captain Hatherly. She touched at St. John's, Newfoundland, before sailing for Liverpool. The passengers, thought to be Canadian troops, were taken aboard at Newfoundland. When she arrived at that port she was reported to be in a leaking condition. Repairs were made, but after starting to sea she was forced to put back for further overhauling. She finally sailed on February 13, and the heavy weather of the last week probably started the old leaks in her plates.

When the Mongolian left Philadelphia her cargo consisted of 500 tons of wheat flour, 50,000 bushels of wheat, 200 quarters of beef and lubricating oil, all valued at \$235,700.

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PROVIDE FOR 21 NEW SUBMARINES

Danger of Becoming Involved in the European War Dwelt Upon in Debate.

ACTION FOLLOWS REQUEST BY MAYOR

"Just a Beginning," Dr. Goldwater Says—Companies Can Ask for a Hearing.

Dr. S. S. Goldwater, Commissioner of Health, yesterday struck what he declares is the first of many blows to stop overcrowding of germ-infested cars by forcing the transit companies to increase their service. His action is based on his finding that overcrowding of cars is a menace to health.

By authority of the Board of Health he ordered the New York Railway Company and the Belt Line Railway Corporation, operators of the cross-town lines at Eighty-sixth and Fifty-ninth Streets, to regulate their service so that the total number of passengers on any car at any time shall not exceed one and one-half times the seating capacity of the car.

These orders were served on officials of the two companies by patrolmen at 5 o'clock yesterday. Under the city charter, which is Dr. Goldwater's authority for his action, the companies have three days in which to ask for a hearing. If they do not, the orders go into effect five days after they are served.

Mayor Asks Action.

Dr. Goldwater received a letter yesterday from Mayor Mitchell calling attention to the fact that accommodations which are offered to passengers on many of the city's transit lines are not what they should be, and that "citizens, despairing of obtaining any relief through the Public Service Commission, look to the Department of Health for help." The Mayor quoted Section 1176 of the charter, which provides that the Board of Health may enter in its records as a nuisance any business pursuit which is dangerous to life or health, and may order the same to be abated.

"You have shown that overcrowding is a menace to health," said the Mayor's letter, "and the courts will undoubtedly sustain you in a vigorous attempt to obtain relief from the present notorious and intolerable conditions, which offend not only against health, but against decency. Please take this matter up at once."

A few hours later the Board of Health was in session with Dr. Joseph J. O'Connell, Health Officer, Dr. J. J. O'Connell, Second Deputy Police Commissioner, representing Commissioner Woods.

"Just a Beginning."

"Understand that this action is just a beginning," said Dr. Goldwater after the meeting adjourned. "We use no discretion in selecting these two lines. I might say that the Eighty-sixth and Fifty-ninth Street cross-town lines were chosen because they are in parts of the city through which I travel twice a day, know from personal observation that the conditions of overcrowding are very bad, and that those conditions are easily remedied."

"I do not say that these lines are worse than many others in the city. I don't suppose that they are. But we make a beginning here, with the intention of extending these orders to all the others which offend in the same way."

He had men at work investigating conditions on the Brooklyn lines.

Will Go After Others.

"If the order applied to these two lines is complied with, we will not expect much opposition from operators of other lines where overcrowding is known to exist. The best service of the transit lines in due time. This is the first step in our final campaign to extend the authority of the Department of Health over transit lines and to make them give the best service possible from their physical equipment."

There are two ways of enforcing the rights of health, the Commissioner of Health said, either by the courts or through the sanitary police.

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The former would-be wheat king proved to be a frank and genial witness. His physical bulk is impressive and his smile is most ingratiating. He was entertaining as well as instructive.

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Every crash of a shell, every fort demolished on the way to the 200,000,000 bushels of Russian wheat cornered by the dogs of war brings relief nearer, he said. Confidence that the Allies would speedily open the way started prices tumbling on the Chicago Board of Trade yesterday. Floods of selling orders forced the price down eight cents a bushel, and there was every indication that export orders had already begun to decline.

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Mr. Leiter qualified his prophecy to a certain extent. He was not sure how long the prices would remain down. He explained that the decline in prices may only be temporary, because of the difficulty of moving grain from the interior of Russia. After the supply in the terminal elevators had been exhausted no man could tell how long it would take to get the wheat from the country. Necessarily the movement would be difficult and slow because of

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Down goes the price of wheat, said Joseph Leiter, who just missed cornering the wheat market in 1897-'98. The price did go down while he was testifying yesterday. It dropped 8 cents a bushel on the Chicago Board of Trade.

Price Drops as He Predicts Fall When Dardanelles Is Opened—He Defends Speculation and Declares Farmers Are the Best at That Game.

Down goes the price of wheat. That prophecy of relief from the high prices of wheat, flour and bread in this country was written with capital letters in the record of the Attorney General's inquiry yesterday by Joseph Leiter, onetime leader of the big grain speculators. With the opening of the Dardanelles by the Allies and the beginning of the outflow of the vast stores of grain in Southern Russia a drop in price would result, he testified.

Every crash of a shell, every fort demolished on the way to the 200,000,000 bushels of Russian wheat cornered by the dogs of war brings relief nearer, he said. Confidence that the Allies would speedily open the way started prices tumbling on the Chicago Board of Trade yesterday. Floods of selling orders forced the price down eight cents a bushel, and there was every indication that export orders had already begun to decline.

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The former would-be wheat king proved to be a frank and genial witness. His physical bulk is impressive and his smile is most ingratiating. He was entertaining as well as instructive.

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